

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AUGUST 16-20 VISIT OF LEONARD MARKS

1. SUMMARY: LEONARD MARKS, CHAIRMAN, U.S. ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, VISITED PRAGUE AUGUST 16-20. WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH, COMMISSION MEMBER, AND WILLIAM E. WELD, STAFF DIRECTOR, ACCOMPANIED MARKS. DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DUSAN SPACIL; DEPUTY CZECH CULTURE MINISTER OTAKAR HOLAN; AND DEPUTY CZECH EDUCATION MINISTER PREMYSLAV JAKOS. EMBASSY REGARDS VISIT AS HIGHLY USEFUL, ESPECIALLY COMING SOON AFTER RECENT HELSINKI MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL STRESSED GOC READINESS TO MOVE FORWARD IMMEDIATELY ON CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. SPACIL ALSO REITERATED CZECH DESIRE TO HAVE VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN. ALTHOUGH SPACIL DID NOT MINIMIZE CZECHOSLOVAK DISAPPOINTMENT AT NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF LONG-GRAVEL, HE EMPHASIZED NEED TO MOVE AHEAD ON CZ-US RELATIONS, WITH HIGH LEVEL VISIT AND RESUMPTION EXCHANGE TALKS AS LOGICAL STEPS AT THIS JUNCTURE. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO MARKS' QUESTION ABOUT CSCE EMPHASIZING BASKET THREE, SPACIL STRESSED INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ENTIRE FINAL ACT AND UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE CSSR ATTACHES TO BASKET ONE. HE STRESSED NEED FOR BOTH SIDES TO BEGIN ORDERLY NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. SPACIL DEFLECTED MARKS' SPECIFIC PROBES ABOUT DESIRABILITY MORE AMERICAN BOOKS AND RECORDS FOR LOCAL SALE, POSSIBILITY OF OFF-SITE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER, AND INCREASED LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL-CULTURAL EXCHANGE, STATING THAT BROADLY IMPROVED CULTURAL RELATIONS DEPENDED ON PROGRESS IN POLITICAL RELATIONS.

3. CHARGE RAISED QUESTION OF VISAS FOR VISITING JOURNALISTS. SPACIL DID NOT SET FORTH ANY DEFINITIVE GOC POSITION, ALTHOUGH HE TALKED FREELY ABOUT GOC RELUCTANCE TO LET SOMEONE IN WHO THEY KNOW WILL WRITE PIECES HARMFUL TO GOC. BOTH MARKS AND CHARGE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PROGRESS IN THIS AREA OF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION.

4. SPACIL SPOKE FRANKLY, POINTING TO PAST DIFFICULTIES AND DEPLORING US TENDENCY AT TIMES TO VIEW CZECHOSLOVAKS AS "POOR BASTARDS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN WHO HAVE TO BE LIBERATED AND TAUGHT DEMOCRACY." HE MADE NO SECRET OF FACT THAT CSSR'S TRULY "FRIENDLY" RELATIONS WERE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, PURSUING POSITIVE LINE THAT FONMIN TOOK WITH THE SECRETARY IN HELSINKI, SPACIL WAS QUITE CONCRETE IN TALKING ABOUT NEED TO TAKE SPECIFIC STEPS FORWARD (VIZ., EXCHANGES AGREEMENT) DESPITE POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

5. CZECH MINISTRY OF CULTURE. THIS MINISTRY WAS CLEARLY THE MOST RECEPTIVE POINT IN THREE MINISTRIES VISITED BY MARKS GROUP. DEPUTY MINISTER HOLAN SAID THERE WAS NO IMPEDIMENT TO FURTHER EXCHANGE OF SERIOUS PERFORMING GROUPS AND MUSICAL COMEDIES. FOLK MUSIC, INCLUDING JAZZ AND ROCK, GOT LOWER PRIORITY. UNSTATED REASON WAS PARTY FEAR OF "IDEOLOGICAL DISFUSIONISM". MARKS SUMMARIZED MEETING THAT BOTH SIDES DESIRE INCREASE IN EXCHANGES AND THAT TIME TO TALK ABOUT THEM IS NOW. MINISTER SAID THAT ACCURATELY REFLECTED HIS MINISTRY'S POSITION.

6. CZECH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. TWO POINTS MADE AT MEETING (8/19) WITH DEPUTY MINISTER PREMYSLAV JAKOS: ANY FURTHER ACTIVITY CZ-US EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE WOULD HAVE TO COME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON SIGNAL FROM MFA FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WERE ALL HE WANTED. EXCHANGES IN THE HUMANITIES WERE DESCRIBED BY THE GOC REPRESENTATIVE AS BEING "DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE". JAKOS SAID AMERICAN LECTURES OF POLITICAL SUBJECTS WOULD BE WELCOME IF GOC COULD SEND TEACHERS OF MARXISM-LENINISM TO AMERICA. MINED OFFICIAL EXPRESSED PRIVATE OPINION TO PAO THAT, IF

EXCHANGE TALKS RESUMED IN NEAR FUTURE, THEY WOULD STILL
TAKE TWO YEARS TO CONCLUDE.

7. MARKS AND SMITH DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF RAISING THE
IMPORTANT ISSUES -- ESPECIALLY BY WAY OF FOLLOWUP TO CSCE-- AND
EMBASSY FOUND THIS VISIT VERY USEFUL.
PERRY

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